THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Approval of Air India Engine Overhaul (Jet Shop) in category 'C' was withdrawn by the Director General of Civil Aviation following the audit of the shop on 21st May, 1996 and restored on 6th June, 1996.

[Translation]

Delivery of Dak in Rural Areas

5452. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the employees engaged in the delivery of dak in the rural areas of the country and facilities such as pay and allowances being given to them, category-wise;

(b) whether there is any resentment among these employees in regard to delivery of dak;

(c) if so, whether the people of rural areas have complained against these employees in regard to delivery of dak ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to resolve their problems ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) 1. As on 31.03.1996, 79958 Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entrusted with the job of postal delivery work in rural areas of the country. The Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entitled to consolidated monthly allowances ranging between Rs. 240/- and Rs. 420/- depending on their workload. In addition, they are also paid the following :

(i) Dearness Allowance @ 148% of basic allowance.

(ii) Interim Relief of Rs. 100/- per month.

(iii) Fixed Stationery Charges @ Rs. 2/- per month.

(iv) Cycle Maintenance Allowance where applicable @ Rs. 30/- per month.

(v) Ex-gratia bonus paid once a year on the basis of their actual emoluments for the same number of days as paid to departmental employees.

(vi) Uttarakhand Division Allowance

The Extra Departmental Agents of Uttarakhand Division are being paid an extra allowance of Rs. 40/- per annum in the month of September every year provided they have worked continuously as Extra Departmental Agent since March of that year

(vii) Group Insurance Scheme

The Extra Departmental Agents are also covered by a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1.4.1992. The scheme is optional for the Extra Departmental Agents already in employment before 1.4.1994 and is compulsory for the Extra Departmental Agents appointed on or after 1.4.1992. The scheme gives a risk cover for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month. Out of this, Rs. 3.50 goes for insurance cover and Rs. 6.50 is the savings component. If an Extra Departmental Agent retires or leaves his job, he is paid the accumulated savings component with interest. In case of death, the nominee is paid Rs. 10,000/- plus accumulated savings component.

(viii) Ex-gratia Gratuity Rs. 6,000/-. The minimum mandatory service required for payment of Ex-gratia Gratuity is ten years.

2. There is no resentment among the ED Agents engaged in delivery of Dak in rural areas in regard to the delivery work.

3. There are instances of people of rural areas complaining against the employees in regard to delivery of Dak. These complaints relate to delay in delivery of mail and payment of money-orders in rural areas. This delay occurs due to various reasons such as cancellation/ late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, landslides etc.

4. Efforts made by the Government to resolve the problems relating to delivery of dak in rural areas include holding regular meetings with the State Transport Authorities, Indian Airlines, Railways and their appropriate authorities at the State and National level. The transmission and delivery of mails and money orders in rural areas is also continuously monitored at various levels and prompt remedial action is taken wherever failures are noticed.

[English]

Telephone Adalats in Delhi

5453. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephone Adalats organised in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases settled;

(c) whether such Adalats are proposed to be organised at the State level also; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 12 Adalats have been held during the last three years i.e. 1993, 1994, 1995 in MTNL, Delhi.

(b) 12044 cases have been settled.

(c) and (d) As per existing instructions, Adalats are required to be held in all Telecom Circles and Telephone Districts in each State every three months.

Edible Oil

5454. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of edible oil in the country by the year 2000;

(b) the expected production in this period;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of edible oil in the country; and

(d) the difference of prices of edible oil produced in the country and imported from foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the latest estimates, the total requirement of edible oils in the country by the year 2000 is estimated at 84.18 lakh MTs.

(b) The expected production of edible oils, computed on the basis of the targeted production of 26 million tonnes of oilseeds by the Ministry of Agriculture is 75.20 lakh MTs.

(c) Steps being taken by the Govt. to increase the production of edible oils in the country are—

(i) Intensification of efforts for implementation of Oilseed Production Programme area expansion through sequential cropping, inter-cropping;

(ii) Replacement of low economic crop;

(iii) Increase in productivity by providing various services inputs;

(iv) Assistance for production and distribution of seeds;

(v) Distribution of mini kits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implement and chemicals etc. In addition, front line and general demonstrations are conducted on farmers' fields to transfer the production technology.

(d) The comparative wholesale prices of indigeneous edible oils and imported RBD palmolein at the end of August, 1996 are as under:—

(Price Rs. per MT)

Groundnut oil	42,470/-
Cottonseed oil	31,830/-
Rapeseed oil	31,350/-
Soyabean oil	31,900/-
RBD Palmolein	28,610/-

[Translation]

Ultra Modern Communication System

5455. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for ultramodern communication system for the development of telephone services in Surat, in view of the rapid industrialisation in and around Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on this programme; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is a plan for installation of Extra large New Technology Local/Digital Tax Exchanges and installation of reliable media through OFC and digital Microwave for connecting various Exchanges in Surat. The details of these schemes are given in statement.

(c) A total of Rs. 76.5 crores approximately are likely to be spent on this programme.

(d) These systems are likely to start functioning progressively during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

STATEMENT

SYSTEMS PLANNED FOR COMMISSIONING IN SURAT DURING 1996-97, 1997-98.

B (I) Local Extra Large New Technology Exchanges

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity
1.	Mahider Pura	13 K (10 KM + 3 KRSU)
2.	Piplod	10 K Main
3.	Rander	3 KRSU
4.	Kapodara	4 KRSU
5.	Varachha	10 K Main
6.	Pandesra	5 KRSU

B (II) Trunk Automatic Exchange Equipment

Extra large D-Tax 11k